



Higher Education and Employment Advancement Public Hearing

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Testimony

By

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Provost

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Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today on House Bill 6231, An Act Concerning Public Institutions of Higher Education System Transfer and Articulation Agreements.

The University of Connecticut is committed to working with the Connecticut Community College System (CCC) and the other state universities to improve transfer and articulation agreements. In 2002 the University started its Guaranteed Admissions Program as a pilot program with three community colleges -- Manchester, Three Rivers and Quinnebaug Valley -- that built upon existing articulation agreements with the Community Colleges that had been in place beginning in the early 1990's. By 2007, the Guaranteed Admissions Program was expanded to all 12 Community Colleges and included more than 50 majors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Last year, we announced another extension of this agreement to include our School of Business. Community college students now have guaranteed access to UConn's School of Business, which is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as 24th amongst public national universities and 42nd overall. The addition of School of Business to the Program expands UConn's ability to fulfill its mission of providing avenues of access to quality higher education to able, high-achieving students from families across the state.

Our GAP program insures that qualified community college students in their first year have a guaranteed spot at the University of Connecticut provided they complete specified academic conditions including earning their associate's degree before matriculating at UConn. Historically the Guaranteed Admissions Program has attracted outstanding students. It is no surprise that some students in the GAP program on the Storrs campus in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have been awarded scholarships based on their superior academic performance since coming to UConn. In addition to academic excellence, community college students bring unique experiences and backgrounds that enrich our campus both in the classroom and beyond. The University is proud that this year 28% of our incoming transfers are community college students -- an all-time high for UConn. The GAP is a major contributor to this increase.

We commend the Committee for raising this legislation and look forward to working with the Department of Higher Education and the other public universities and colleges on the study outlined in the legislation to further improve transfer and articulation agreements.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of Connecticut.